

From: donald j mcmeen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/30/01 2:59pm
Subject: The Great Microsoft Debacle

Dear Sir or Madam:

My input is simple. Here we have a company that single-handedly created many, if not most of the tools necessary to implement an incredible capability accessible from nearly any place on earth. They, starting with Bill Gates and Paul Allen, combined their unusual skills with great initiative to bring this capability into being.

The results have so many superlatives associated with their efficacy that it would be pointless to start trying to delineate and enumerate them. And I, the ordinary consumer, am able to utilize them for my own interests at a tiny cost. Information availability and communications capability beyond anyone's wildest dreams of a few decades ago are the legacy of Microsoft's initiative, industry and invention. Everyone who is in a position to affect Microsoft's progress needs to wake up and smell this enormous field of roses, this gift beyond imagination.

Naturally, there are those who, seeing the results that Microsoft has obtained, along with the commensurate rewards which came along with it, are eager to share in.....the rewards. That they didn't have the same qualities that Microsoft manifested would be overcome by resorting to ...why...litigation! Of course! It's the American way, or at least, becoming the American way. Replace honest effort and industry with a lawsuit!

The Justice Department needs to be a bit more pragmatic about their pursuits. The American economy started slumping over when the Justice Department decided to show Microsoft who had the most power. The stock market joined in the malaise, particularly the technology sector, with many solid companies that will determine much of our future economic health and indeed, quality of life, losing a very large percentage of their value. The temporal relationship between Justice's actions and this change in the value of our economy seems unlikely to be coincidental.

If Justice has a problem with the concept of pragmatism versus idealism, it needs to come to grips with the genesis of idealism. Idealism is the best guess as to principles that yield the greatest success, in some sense, at the time they are formulated. Those guesses shouldn't be taken as immutable or beyond review. It's time for Justice to take a long look at what they're doing in this business arena, while also coming to grips with the likelihood that a full understanding of the inner workings of the target industry business model may be beyond their reach. Like the stock market.

Donald J. McMeen
Ordinary consumer and user of Microsoft products.